

# Carleton Riding Club Member newsletter

## February 2024



Welcome to our monthly Member newsletter.

We've got lots to update on, so grab a brew and take a read. If you've got any feedback or an idea for an article, be sure to let us know.

### Reflections on being our Chair

At our AGM, we announced that Anna Goodley was standing down as our Chair and that Vicky Harris would be taking on the role. We asked Anna to reflect on her time as chair:

When I joined the Carleton Committee in 2011, I knew that I liked the club and the people, but I couldn't imagine the fun that I was going to have over the next few years. I was a reluctant Chair; BRC had issued us with a dictate that we must have someone in the role. I ended up holding the parcel when the music stopped.

Letting you into a secret - it has been a hugely enjoyable period of my life. The Committee are absolutely brilliant, they are knowledgeable, committed and passionate about making the club successful. There is a huge desire to 'do things well'. There is nothing half hearted about their approach to anything, whether it be our club shows, training or organising an area qualifier. With this committee you can be sure that whatever it is, it will be efficiently run, and that everyone will be pleasant and kind, both in the lead up and during the event.

These things are taken for granted when everything is going well; the biggest complement that someone can pay is that an event ran seamlessly, or appeared effortless. But I can assure you that on the contrary, the committee work tirelessly to put things on for members, there are meetings, Facebook messages, WhatsApp correspondence, sub committee meetings and so on. It is no exaggeration to say that, at times, each Carleton committee member eat, sleeps and breathes Riding Club. That doesn't mean to say there hasn't been disagreement along the way, or that every member has always been happy, but there has been a group of people, willing to put what is 'best for the club' at the forefront of every decision.

So, after 10 or so years, I have decided that it's time for different interests to fill my time. Two small children, ponies & Pony Club are on the agenda at the moment (plus maybe a bit of riding of the odd horse I can get my hands on). It's also good for the Club to have someone new putting their stamp on things, doing things a different way and bringing fresh blood and ideas in. Vicky Harris is a fantastic choice as the new Carleton Chair, she will do a much better job than I have ever done, and most importantly, she has the support of a fantastic and experienced committee, with a few new voices who are as fresh faced and enthusiastic as you will ever find. The future looks good!

Thank you for all your support.  
Anna



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### Upcoming training – March

L3 BE and BS coach, Judith Barker, will be taking our next monthly training at Horse Welfare on Saturday 30 March. Judith is an Advanced Event Rider. She's passionate about horses and empowering individuals to be their best.

We'll keep groups to 3 maximum. The focus this month is using polework. There will be lots of exercises including raised poles.

Theresa Edmonds will be offering flatwork lesson at Hill Farm, Hardingham on Sunday 17 March. Private or shared lesson available.

All of our training can be entered on My Riding Life.



With all of our training, we do our very best to make sure that we put you and your horse in the best group possible. We can only do this if you are realistic with your abilities on your entry. So please let us know where you are at the time of booking. Not where you have been or where you want to be. Our instructors will push you if that's what you want. Or cater for any confidence issues in the lesson. We want everyone to get the most from these training sessions.

### Quiz & Chips – 15 March

Following the success of our first Quiz & Chips night last year, we're delighted to let you know that we will be holding our second Quiz & Chips night on Friday 15 March.

We'll be back at Filby Bridge Restaurant from 7pm. Teams are limited to 6 people. It's £12 per person. That includes your fish & chips or vegetarian option.

Team entries close Tuesday 5th March so you haven't got long. You can get your ticket on My Riding Life. And start swatting!

Massive thanks to Joanne Watts and Debbie White for organising this.



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### The Role of Official Steward

BRC Official Steward and Committee Member, Emma Broughton, recently attended BRC Official Stewards training day. This must be done every 3 years to ensure they are kept up to date with best practises.

At the training, Dave Thompson (BE and FEI Technical Delegate) and Jo Winfield (BHS Fellow) taught practical sessions on Course Inspection and were able to offer their expertise on all matters of rider and horse safety at BRC events.

Ryan Searle (BRC Health and Safety Advisor) delivered a session on dealing with serious incidents.

Other topics covered on the day included:

- Assessing dangerous riding and Abuse of the horse
- New Hat Standards, Hat Tagging and Checking, Body Protector Requirements
- Flu Vaccination Checking
- Dealing with serious incidents

All of the BRC Official Stewards are dedicated volunteers. They must be present at every BRC qualifier. Without them, the qualifier can't go ahead. They have to be there for the first horse and the last. That can mean a VERY long day for them.

Their role is to advise and support the event organiser and secretary before and after the event. They carry out site inspections and ensure that flu vaccinations procedures are in place.

They must ensure that all health and safety rules are applied, including that a H&S official is appointed and the appropriate medial and veterinary provisions have been arranged.

At an event, they can act as the Disciplinary Steward if needed. And head up the Serious Incident Team if the worst happens.

As an Official Steward, Emma can check and tag your riding hat before a qualifier. Don't forget that Body Protector standards have changed.

As you can see, it's a vital role. Thank you Emma for not only being our BRC Official Steward, but now taking on the role of BRC Area 14 Chair.

